The Story of the Pasteur Institute and Its Contributions to Global Health

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By

Marie-Hélène Marchand

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PREFACE

Between legend and modernity

As we all know, it is many decades since Pasteur's life and work entered into legend. Who is not familiar with the history of the man who scotched belief in spontaneous generation, defeated rabies, and came to be known in his own lifetime, and is still honored today, as one of the greatest benefactors of humanity?

Any number of works, ranging from the hagiographic to those more directly scientific in their inspiration, have set out to relate the epic tale of Pasteur, the great scientist, and his no less famous disciples, Roux, Yersin, Calmette and so many more.

The very creation of the Pasteur Institute, subject of an international subscription campaign whose list of donors included such prominent figures as the Tsar of Russia and the Emperor of Brazil, only added further luster, if such were needed, to the symbolic image of this glorious past.

Yet while the famous institute continues to enjoy a worldwide reputation, the general public, as the author of this history underlines, has very little idea of what goes on here, retaining only the image of a major center for vaccines and vaccination. Hence the resurgence of attention whenever certain epidemics break out. And the undeniable interest of the "personal story" told here by Marie-Hélène Marchand stems precisely from the dual light it holds up to history for the reader's benefit: first, taking its inspiration from the traditional epic, bringing the legendary past of the Institute and its leading figures to life with remarkable scholarship, while transporting us back in time to the aftermath of the last war and describing its contemporary activities, a complex tale, marked by phases of innovation but also by upheaval. For while the Institute may justifiably pride itself on the rich variety of themes addressed in the general field of life sciences, and on a community of outstanding researchers possessed of sometimes prodigious talents, including many a Nobel laureate, that same community can also be extremely demanding! Well aware of its mission, it can sometimes take a rebellious turn… The life of the directors that have

succeeded one another at its head, even leaving financial crises out of the reckoning, was rarely smooth and without incident.

Thus we are led to a clearer perception of some of the great transitions, not to say the great challenges, that the Institute has faced. Certain transitions were rooted in the contrasts between the scientific and medical figures running the institution, as in the wake of the death of its founder, an event that posed many very real challenges to which his disciples nevertheless proved equal, at the cost of bitter battles such as those fought by Duclaux, Grancher, Roux, Calmette, Yersin and many others. Other transitions of a scientific nature are associated with the massive "revolutions" that transformed biology itself: one such instance was the shift from microbiology to molecular biology (illustrated by Monod, Jacob and Lwoff). Another, more recent, followed the technological upheavals created by the rise of genomics, developmental biology, the neurosciences or the use of stem cells.

Over the past three or four decades, at the Pasteur Institute as at other research institutions, in France and other countries, we have all had to contend with an unprecedented acceleration in the life sciences, with considerable developments in technologies and instruments, not to mention the expanding numbers of the international scientific community. Hence the fierce competition that has ensued on the international stage, and the changing attitudes of civil society itself with regard to research in general; and all in a context where administrative burdens are increasingly numerous and where the national economy is itself in turmoil.

In times such as these, the Pasteur Institute is therefore faced with the need to make its tradition of excellence compatible with the new imperatives brought about by the evolution, often sharply marked, in biomedical sciences, and with the new conditions under which these sciences must now operate.

No one could be better placed to retrace for us this vast and complex journey than Marie-Hélène Marchand, who served as Secretary General of the Pasteur Institute from 1983 to 2005 and therefore became familiar with the workings, however convoluted, of this great non-profit foundation.

As a result of the direct contact she enjoyed, over a period of almost thirty years, with several of the Institute's Presidents – Raymond Dedonder, Maxime Schwartz and Philippe Kourilsky – whom she accompanied in

their tasks and assisted to the best of her ability, she is able to paint an objective picture of their missions and their individual personalities.

Yet, by the very nature of her job, Marie-Hélène Marchand also forged direct links with donors, often leading lights of the jet set, and she offers us her portraits of these figures, too, in a kindly spirit not without touches of humor.

One very important development has to do with the famous and somewhat stormy donation of jewels owned by the Duchess of Windsor: stormy, in that the initiative was not particularly to the taste of the British Crown!

This gift did, however, breathe new life into the Institute, making renovation of its historic buildings possible.

Another story relates to the far-reaching Pasteur Institute International Network and associated institutes, first founded in the time of Louis Pasteur himself in various parts of the globe, which has now reached the record total of 32 institutes.

Although independent of Paris and governed by statutes specific to the countries concerned, these institutes are nonetheless in frequent direct contact with the "parent" institute. Their story, as told here, is of great cultural interest.

During her time as Secretary General, Marie-Hélène Marchand was also an attentive witness, on occasions directly involved, alongside the Scientific Director, in the regular exchanges between the Pasteur Institute in Paris, the wider world of French scientific research institutions in the public sector, leading universities, and the pharmaceutical industry.

As clearly emerges from the pages of this book, its author has frequently been a privileged observer and sometimes a direct actor in these multiple and complex interactions. She writes of them with great objectivity, rarely putting herself forward in her account yet writing with all the passion and emotion of someone with a great love of this enchanted realm of memory, fully aware of their extraordinary history yet also intensely engaged, both personally and professionally, in the various workings of the collective life of this great Institute, even down to its battles!

The result is a book that is both rich and captivating, a living and original portrait of the Pasteur Institute, which General de Gaulle supposedly ranked alongside the Eiffel Tower and the Collège de France as the three things that mattered most in the eyes of the French.

François Gros
Honorary President of the Pasteur Institute
Permanent Honorary Secretary of the Académie des Sciences
Honorary Professor of the Collège de France

INTRODUCTION

What exactly is the Pasteur Institute? This was the question I asked myself as, newly appointed as its Secretary General, I climbed the front steps of the Institute on March 1st, 1983. I knew as much about it as anyone else, which is to say very little. The textbook image retained from childhood, that of the illustrious scientist and benefactor of humanity, has stuck with many a generation since the end of the 19th century and imprinted on the collective imagination a picture of the Institute, the home of vaccines and public health.

I was gradually to discover this "secular cloister" where tradition and hagiography cleverly conceal a complex human reality, emotional yet bitter, certainly endearing. The Pasteur Institute is certainly in a paradoxical situation: despite being perhaps the most famous French institution of all, no one really knows a thing about it. The opinion polls that successive management teams persist in commissioning invariably report that, although the Institute is very well known, the general public has no idea what it actually does. The belief still persists that it is a public institution, (when in fact it has been private since its founding in 1887), and that it produces vaccines, when it has been over 40 years since the Institute engaged in any manufacturing whatsoever. Even though the Pasteur Institute is part of France's national heritage, too little is known of its historic role, the part it played in spreading France's influence under the Third Republic thanks to its expansion overseas, and the part it played in major scientific breakthroughs during more than a century.

This book is therefore a first-hand account, a personal history of the Institute destined for all those, and they are many both in France and elsewhere who know the Pasteur Institute by name only, and for younger researchers: it aims to introduce them to an institution whose history will no doubt be unfamiliar to them.

The Pasteur Institute was, for me and for many others, an atmosphere, a history. We took pride in serving an institution that occupies a place like no other: its atmosphere due in large part to the old-world charm of buildings dating from the 1900s and the ghosts of the "great Pasteurians";

its history is studded with outstanding scientific discoveries and eminent individuals: this institution made major contributions, in France and around the world, to the development of biomedical research and improving public health. General de Gaulle once paid tribute to the Institute by saying that there were three things in France that should always be preserved: the Eiffel Tower, the Collège de France and the Pasteur Institute.

When I arrived at the Pasteur Institute in 1983, my secretary, who had worked there since 1943, still spoke as reverently of Monsieur Pasteur as if she had actually known him; management files had been archived since the beginning in imposing red boxes lining the wax-polished library shelves, minutes of Board meetings were handwritten "in the English style," using exquisite calligraphy, and any communication, sober in the extreme, focused solely on the traditional fields of the Pasteur Institute, namely infectious diseases; some of the researchers had actually known, if not Pasteur himself, then at least Emile Roux or Alexandre Yersin.

A family atmosphere still reigned; all the researchers knew one another, and the director knew all of them: the Pasteur Institute had no such thing as a logo and its name was still written in Gothic characters as it had been since 1887!

Within a generation, this model had exploded: the scale had shifted such that the director could not possibly know all the researchers, now far more numerous and many from abroad; the inevitable turnover of both scientific and administrative staff gradually erased shared memory and altered operating procedures. Increasingly specialized research had tended to isolate researchers more than ever within their own particular fields and knowledge of the Pasteur Institute's history has faded for the youngest generations.

But, as one illustrious Pasteurian on the eve of retirement, Elie Wollman, wrote to Professor Lépine in 1985, following the celebration of the centenary of the first anti-rabies vaccination, "In the case of the Pasteur Institute, we must constantly bear in mind the spirit of its past, its present and its future to ensure harmonious continuity between them. For to neglect any one of these aspects would be to imperil the Institute's very existence." This book is, in some sort, a response to the duty of remembrance owed to an institution whose name and prestige have stood the test of time, owed to those, prominent or unknown to the general

public, who have contributed or contribute now to its fame, and owed to those patrons so generous with their wealth or their time, who have supported it from its founding, some of whom have been of the greatest assistance to me in my task.

As an introduction to the Pasteurian universe, I invite you to join me on a guided tour of some of this enchanted realm of memory on the Pasteur Institute campus. Once the scene is set, we will revisit the major contribution to science and medicine made by Pasteur, and the principal discoveries of his successors.

In a second section, we will see how Pasteur's heirs have handed the founder's spirit down from generation to generation through a history that has not always been smooth and untroubled, and we will identify these Pasteurians through a series of portraits from the past and from the present. Lastly, in a third section, we will address the phenomenal reputation of the Pasteur Institute, in France and around the world, as witnessed by the manifestations of support, commemorations and the steady flow of bequests that have made up part of its funding for 130 years.

The Institute is in constant contact with sectors as diverse as industry, executors, donors large and small, government authorities, leading French and foreign research institutions, etc. Over the following pages, we will see the links Pasteur Institute researchers maintain with their overseas colleagues, particularly in the English-speaking world. The Pasteur Institute is by no means an inward-looking institution. All this has built up the reputation of the Institute for more than a century, and guaranteed it a place of its own in the French system of research organizations. The Pasteur Institute is not a cold institution, governed by some sort of disembodied discipline, but a living home, whose "inhabitants" are driven by great passion, anxiety and sometimes, it must be admitted, irrationality. This fact is always disconcerting for the non-scientist who automatically associates the world of science with pure logic. In reality, the "serene peace of laboratories and libraries" that Pasteur spoke of is not so easily achieved! Yet, through all the crises and difficulties, the Institute has always proved able to stick to its path and advance in its battle for public health.

And that is the specific nature of the Pasteur Institute that this book will attempt to convey, through historical facts, anecdotes and personal memories. I have been lucky enough to work with three presidents[1] and five Chairmen of the Board of Directors[2], including François Jacob, the only Pasteurian scientist to have served as President of the Institute. Working alongside them, I experienced the everyday reality of an institution, a reality made up of stressful, difficult or gratifying moments and fascinating encounters, and I owe them all an immense debt of gratitude.

I hope, in any case, that this book will encourage many to learn more about the Pasteur Institute with the same interest I have felt for this exciting and engaging institution. It was written as a tribute to both the Institute and its researchers.

Marie-Hélène Marchand
Honorary Secretary general of the Pasteur Institute

Louis Pasteur, photographed by Nadar, in 1886.

PART I

THE PASTEUR INSTITUTE: A TALE WORTH TELLING

"On the one hand, Pasteur had the temperament of a dreamer and of a romantic artist; he allowed himself to be guided and inspired by the mirage of an imagination that ranged far beyond the horizon of established knowledge, at times even beyond common sense. On the other hand, he had a compulsive urge to observe and investigate concrete situations, as well as to exert a puritanical control over himself and the external world."

René Dubos, *Pasteur, Free Lance of Science*,
A Da Capo Paperback, 1960.

A LIVING LANDMARK

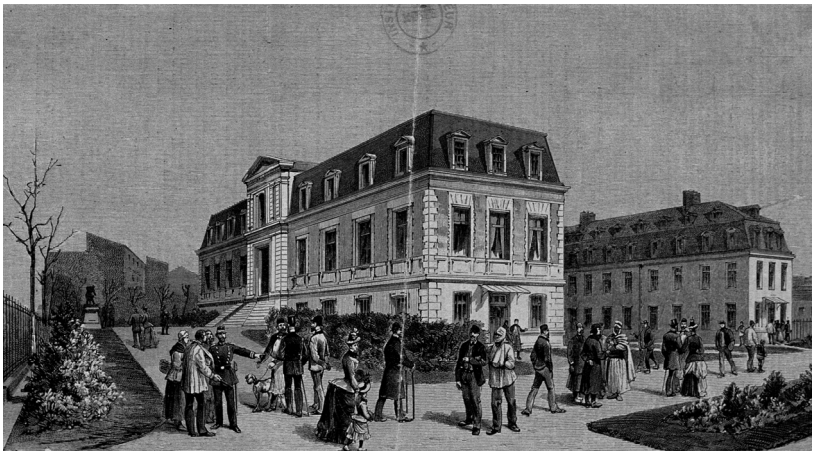
> "This is the beginning of post-exposure rabies prophylaxis… A rabies vaccine center should be set up."
>
> **Louis Pasteur,** Académie des Sciences, March 1st, 1886.

To the reader wholly unfamiliar with the Institute, I offer my services as guide on an initial tour of the campus to soak up the atmosphere, before seeking a deeper understanding of this mysterious universe. In another life prior to my time here, I was asked to organize a visit to the Institute for an eminent American academic, the Provost of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston. I called the Institute to make the arrangements, and was put through to the deputy director, Elie Wollman, who was responsible, among other things for public relations.

I had no idea at the time who he was and was only later to come to know this eminent Pasteurian. In answer to my request, he replied sarcastically that the Pasteur Institute was not the Eiffel Tower and there was therefore no point in planning a visit for this American, however important. This was, you might say, my first introduction to the Pasteur Institute. Things have changed a lot since then, however, and the Institute now welcomes many visitors.

An Initial Tour of the Campus

When the Académie des Sciences decided, on March 1st 1886, to second Pasteur's wish to "set up an anti-rabies vaccine center" and launch a public subscription in France and abroad to pay for its founding, one of the immediate needs was to identify a site. Pasteur hesitated between Paris and Villeneuve-l'Etang, in Marnes-la-Coquette, where the Ministry of Public Instruction had allocated him a substantial property for the study of contagious diseases.



Photoengraving by Fortuné-Louis Méaulle, published in *Le Journal illustré* on November 25, 1888. It shows bite victims who have come to the Pasteur Institute to be vaccinated against rabies.

The latter option was finally abandoned, and the Institute was to be built in Paris. In June 1886, the Paris city council had offered a site that it would make available to the Institute for a period of thirty years, after which it would reclaim the site with all its buildings. Pasteur decided to refuse these unacceptable conditions "without rancor but with dignity."

The decision was made to purchase a plot of land on rue Dutot (part of which would later become rue du Docteur-Roux) and remain independent. A milestone on the edge of a village gave the distance from Notre-Dame as 3.5 kilometers. The milestone, visible today from the street, now rests against the ground floor of the AIDS building at 217, rue de Vaugirard. This area was still countryside at the time, and the site, planted with orchards and kitchen gardens, seemed quite remote to Pasteur, but he decided to purchase it anyway.

Only a few years ago, the surroundings of the Institute on rue du Docteur-Roux still had all the air of a late 19th century public park. The flowerbeds on either side of the street were choked with a dusty growth of ivy, untouched since 1888. On arriving at the Institute, I suggested to the Executive Committee (which debated matters both large and small) that the ivy be ripped out and replaced by grass and flowers. This perfectly reasonable proposal was met with a profound silence, until Mr. Wollman

exclaimed categorically, “This is revolution!” Mr. Dedonder, the President of the day, was a man of great good sense: he liked flowers, and the ivy was grubby. From that day forth, I realized that the Pasteur Institute was a complex place where changing things required careful thought.

Should you stroll along rue du Docteur-Roux on a weekday, beneath the century-old chestnut trees planted in Pasteur’s day,[3] you will witness flocks of people in white lab coats crossing from one side of the street to the other only to disappear into a labyrinth of buildings and laboratories. Researchers and technicians go about their business in these buildings on a site covering, though no one would guess it, a total of five hectares or just over 12 acres. Gone is the old-world charm of the gardens where the wives of the first Pasteurians would take their young children for their afternoon walk in the 1900s. In those days, the rear section of the campus, at 25, rue du Docteur-Roux, housed stables and the warehouse of a hackney cab company, l’Urbaine. Further along were the rabbit hutches, an aviary and a lightly wooded patch of land that rose gently towards rue Falguière; a kitchen garden where the gatekeeper grew vegetables created a rustic note enhanced, according to Pozerski de Pomiane, by the song of blackbirds.

As more buildings went up, these witnesses to another era gradually disappeared, even the glorious cherry tree that stood against the wall of the former laboratory of the hospital, as did the linden at the foot of the Duclaux building that made every June fragrant. And whatever happened to those lilacs?

From the outset, however, the emphasis is on the origins of the Pasteur Institute, as the first sight to greet the visitor is a statue of the shepherd boy Jupille. Honored because he was bitten while attempting to save his friends from a rabid dog, Jupille was the second “bite victim” saved by Pasteur, after Meister. Reminiscent of a Florentine bronze, the statue stands outside the lodge where Jupille would one day serve as gatekeeper to the Pasteur Institute. With his very own statue to contemplate!

Another statue redolent of the late 19th century is that of La Charité, a woman holding a child in her arms (according to some, in the typical posture of a child suffering from diphtheria).

Jean-Baptiste Jupille next to his statue in the Pasteur Institute gardens, around 1913. Jupille was the second child to be vaccinated against rabies in 1885 and later became gatekeeper at the Institute.

It is the so-called "historic" building that lies at the heart of the Institute. Built thanks to the public subscription initiated by the Académie des Sciences, to which we will return later, this building at 25, rue du Docteur-Roux houses the former apartments in which Pasteur lived out his final years and which now form the Pasteur Museum. Steeped in the atmosphere of the late 19th century, the museum enchants visitors and enthuses historians; it is one of the very few houses of its period to have remained relatively unaltered: items of furniture, eclectic in style, an imitation Henri II sideboard, heavy velvet curtains and period wallpaper are the hallmark of an era that combined a taste for the dark and lugubrious with a horror of unfilled space, but the heating vents or the gas heating system in the bathroom indicate a level of modern comfort unusual for the period.

The laboratories adjoin the apartments: Pasteur would make no new discoveries here, as he only took up residence towards the end of his dazzling scientific career, but from here he would run the Institute, assisted by five department heads and in close proximity to his colleagues. A remarkably practical man, Pasteur wanted the Institute to be a place of work where air, light and heat abounded. He took a close interest in the plans for the house, in the apartments required for the lab technicians and for the scientists ("for Chamberland and Roux, lab technicians' rooms").

The aim here is not a comprehensive tour of the Institute, but an introduction to some of its more symbolic spots: the crypt, the Salle des Actes (Assembly Hall), the hospital greenhouse, the Scientific Information Center, the Museum Gallery.

The Crypt: Pasteur Remembered

The most symbolic place of all to begin a visit to the Pasteur Institute can only be the crypt in which Louis Pasteur is interred.

After his death on September 28th, 1895, the founder and guiding spirit of the Institute was finally laid to rest here at the end of 1896; following a lavish state funeral, Pasteur's coffin lay in the cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris for the year it took to build this chapel, startling by its presence at the heart of this secular cloister. This despite the fact that many Pasteurians, and certainly some of the most famous amongst them such as André Lwoff, disputed Pasteur's adherence to the Catholic religion, albeit with little evidence.

View of the crypt. Pasteur's tomb is at the center.

The French government wanted Pasteur interred in the Panthéon, which would have been perfectly logical for this "benefactor of humanity," but his family preferred to bury him at the heart of his Institute, the chapel being literally in the midst of the laboratories, thereby investing the Institute with the task of perpetuating the memory of its founder and continuing his mission.

At its meeting on December 16th, 1896, the Board of Directors reported the words of René Vallery-Radot, Pasteur's son-in-law, indicating that "the family would hand over the vault it had built to the President of the Board of Directors of the Pasteur Institute and would entrust its care to Pasteur's students, present and future." The family even paid for the cost of the work. Pasteur's son commissioned the decoration from an architect friend, Charles-Louis Girault, winner of the Grand Prix de Rome, and the mosaicist Auguste Guilbert-Martin, who took his inspiration from Byzantine mosaic art. The result is an extraordinary chapel, reminiscent of the churches of Ravenna, richly decorated with motifs symbolizing Pasteur's work, and described by novelist Louis-Ferdinand Céline in his *Journey to the End of the Night* as "a bourgeoiso-byzantine fantasy in the best taste"!

Encircled by laurels, the symbols of glory, and poppies, symbols of eternal rest, a splendid phrase taken from Pasteur's inaugural address to the Académie Française greets the visitor:

> Blessed is he who carries within himself a God, an ideal of beauty, and who obeys it; an ideal of art, an ideal of science, an ideal of country, an ideal of the virtues of the Gospel.

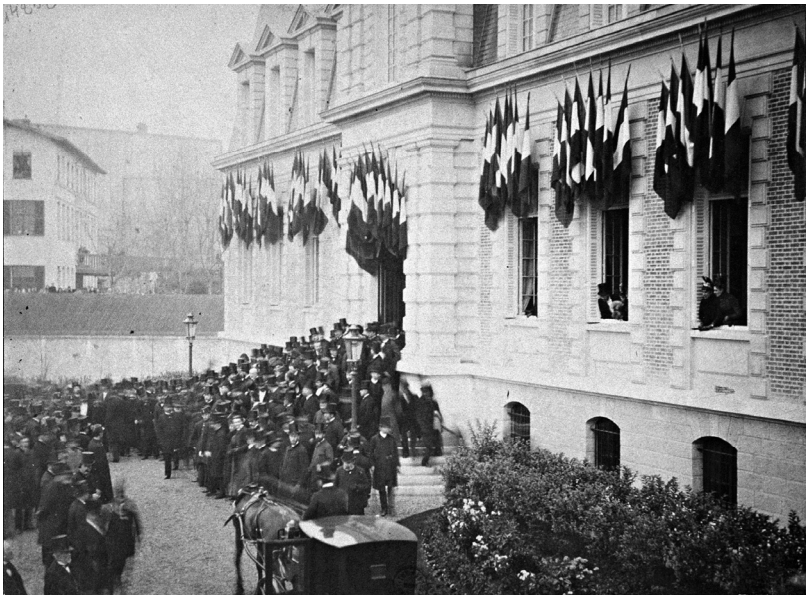
Next the visitor encounters the young shepherd Jupille, grappling with a rabid dog. A frieze of grapevines and mulberry leaves representing Pasteur's work on wine and on silkworms is followed further along by chickens and sheep (evoking his work on cholera and anthrax). Carved on two large panels on either side of the sober yet impressive Swedish granite sarcophagus, like the victories commemorated on the Arc de Triomphe, figure the key phases and great triumphs of his work, from molecular asymmetry to the rabies vaccine.

Finally, in the apse at the foot of the altar lies the tomb of Pasteur's wife, who died in 1910, with the death masks of Pasteur and Dr. Roux. The vaulted ceiling bears depictions of the three theological virtues, Faith, Hope, and Charity, accompanied by Science, which is fitting given that the late 19th century was the age of science triumphant.

Was Pasteur a man of faith, a believer? André Lwoff disputed the idea, on the basis of a statement by Olga Mechnikov, who reported to him a conversation – to which there were no witnesses- she had had with Pasteur. It is not a question of "appropriating" him for religion, which would be meaningless, but simply of adhering to the facts. While Pasteur certainly maintained a complete separation between his personal practice and his professional life, which was perfectly acceptable, does this give any grounds for concluding that he was not a believer? There is no need for resounding speeches to attest to his Catholic faith. Appearances, in any case, do not suggest that Pasteur was anticlerical: his children were enrolled in religious schools, he died comforted by the sacraments of the Church, was interred in Notre-Dame, his family took good care to build a chapel in his name, and so on. From his inaugural address to the Académie Française on April 27th, 1882, it is clear that he did not share the positivistic doctrine illustrated by Auguste Comte or Ernest Renan: he declared himself happy to have served the spiritualist doctrine through his work on spontaneous generation ("In proving that, until this very day, life has never been shown to man as a product of the forces that govern matter, I have been of service to the spiritual doctrine.") and was at pains to point

out that he did not share the positivistic philosophy of Emile Littré, whom he was replacing.

In any event, the crypt is an amazing place and never fails to take visitors by surprise. It is here that, every year, on September 28th, the staff of the Institute are invited to pay their respects. They no longer file past the members of the Institute's senior management, as if before the family of the deceased, as was the practice until the 1980s, but are invited to bow their heads before Pasteur's tomb. Here, too, is where for many years the nuns of the hospital would attend Mass, until the death of Pasteur's grandson. A final Mass was said here in January 2000, to allow the sisters of the order, who were leaving the hospital for the last time, to attend a service held at nightfall, in an atmosphere worthy of the early Christians.



Inauguration of the Pasteur Institute in Paris, November 14th, 1888.

The Salle des Actes (Assembly Hall) and the Creation of the Pasteur Institute

Returning from the crypt to the ground floor of the Museum brings you to the Salle des Actes (originally the Grande Bibliothèque, or main library), a magnificent room, square in shape, with nine windows, where all the great events in the life of the Institute unfolded between 1888 and 1995. It was in this room that the Pasteur Institute was inaugurated on November 14th, 1888 by French President Sadi Carnot, before an audience made up of the highest authorities of the State and countless eminent figures, both French and foreign: the Grand Dukes of Russia, the Italian and Turkish ambassadors, a delegation of foreign doctors, Mechnikov, Gamaleia, Bujwid. The future Queen of Portugal (born Amélie d'Orléans) had arrived just that morning. Too exhausted to deliver his speech himself, Pasteur had his son Jean-Baptiste read it to the gathered assembly:

> And here we see it finished, this grand building of which it may be truly said that there is not a single stone that is not the sign of a generous thought. All the virtues have paid tribute towards the erection of this unique working place. Alas, I feel the poignant melancholy of entering it as a man 'vanquished by time.'

The mission of the Institute was clearly spelled out: Pasteur wanted his Institute "to be a dispensary for the treatment of rabies, a center for research into infectious diseases and a center for education in microbial research," which it has remained to this day.

How was the creation of the Pasteur Institute made possible? Obviously, it was thanks to rabies. But it was the generosity of the public that paid for its construction, since the subscription raised 2.5 million gold francs (the equivalent in today's terms of 8 to 9 million euros). Tribute was paid to the leading illustrious donors on the day of the inauguration: busts of Alexander III, Tsar of Russia, and of Don Pedro II, Emperor of Brazil, were placed in prominent positions, at the request of Pasteur himself. Others would follow: Madame Boucicaut, owner of the Bon Marché department store, Alphonse de Rothschild, Madame Furtado-Heine and the Comte de Laubespin. The latter was the first donor, sending Pasteur the "considerable sum of 40,000 francs" as early as January 1886. Politician and philanthropist, loyal supporter of the d'Orléans family, the Comte de Laubespin was a native of the same region of France as Pasteur (Franche-Comté) and was anxious to show his support for Pasteur, whom he greatly admired, in the final years of his life.

The extremely wealthy Madame Boucicaut had received a visit from Louis Pasteur, anxious to set before her the financial needs of the Institute and solicit her support. The visit is recorded in Jules Renard's *Journal*, as recounted to him by Lucien Guitry.

The passage warrants being quoted in full.

> Pasteur presented himself at the home of Madame Boucicaut, owner of the Bon Marché department store. There was some doubt over whether he should be admitted. "It is an elderly gentleman," reported the maid. "Is that Pasteur, the rabies man?" The maid went to enquire. "Yes," replied Pasteur. He was ushered in. He explained that he wished to found an institute. Little by little, he grew more animated, expressing himself clearly and eloquently. "Which is why I have set myself the task of importuning charitable persons such as yourself. Even one penny…"
>
> "Indeed!" exclaimed Madame Boucicaut, equally as embarrassed as Pasteur. Words proved inadequate. She took out a checkbook, wrote out and signed a check and handed it, folded, to Pasteur. "My thanks, Madame," said he, "you are too kind." He glanced at the check and burst into sobs. She followed suit. The check was for a million francs."

"Guitry's eyes were red, I had a lump in my throat," added Jules Renard. The anecdote itself is true, even if Guitry, with his sense of the theatrical, had grossly inflated the amount of the check, which was nevertheless for the not inconsiderable sum of 150,000 gold francs.

In addition to the busts of these original donors, the visitor is welcomed by a selection of "the family's" paintings: Roux, Duclaux and Mechnikov. The last could even be said to be present "in person" in the Salle des Actes, since the urn containing his ashes stands on top of one of the display cases, a reminder of the originality and humor of the Russian scientist, who wanted to spend his eternal rest surrounded by researchers.

The Hospital Greenhouse and the Practice of Medicine

On the other side of rue du Docteur-Roux stands the northern section of the campus, where the Institute's second building was built in 1900. In 1897, the Baronne de Hirsch had promised a donation of 2 million gold francs, and wished to meet the director to ensure he would put the money to the best possible use. Duclaux and Roux suggested buying the land opposite the historic building to build an annex devoted to chemistry.